



# RIELITY CHECK

A publication of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association ([www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca))

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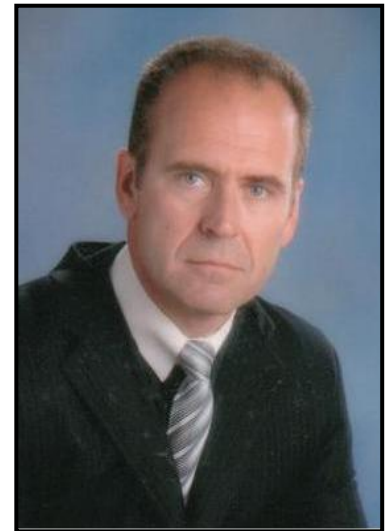
APRIL/MAY 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT – Frank Restall

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association Annual General Assembly was held on Wednesday April 18th. Thank you to all members who took time from their busy schedules to attend the assembly and participate in the business of our Association. The strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of our membership! A report of the 2012 AGA appears later in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars...the 2013 LRTA AGA is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, 2013!

On the heels of our own AGA is the 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Teachers' Society Provincial Council. The meeting will take place Thursday, May 24th to Saturday, May 26th at the Fairmont Hotel. Twenty-one delegates and two alternates from the Louis Riel Teachers' Association will join delegates from other Associations around the province in shaping the future direction of the Society. Resolutions have been tabled for debate, the budget that determines your MTS fees for 2012 - 2013 will be passed and elections to the Provincial Executive will take place.



During the AGM, the LRTA delegation will be actively campaigning to have our Past President, James Bedford, elected to the Provincial Executive in order that he may continue his work on behalf of all MTS members.

The 23 LRTA representatives elected by LRTA members to attend AGM and work on your behalf include:

Carl Antymniuk	Deb Barry	Marcela Cabezas	Dallas Crawford
Brandi Douglas	Sean Fitzmaurice	Jack Fraser	Bob Gaudes
Jeremie Kuypers	Tara Law	Wendy Naroziak	Paul Nelson
Valérie Remillard	Ryan Sabourin	Jodi Samms	Catherine Strifling
Clint Viehweg	Alison Ward	Sue Wilton	Barry Wittevrongel
Rob Wood	Scott Wood	Frank Restall	

Have you marked the LRTA Retirement Reception at the Legacy Center on June 14th in your calendars? Come out and say 'good-bye' to colleagues who are retiring from our profession. The LRTA Retirement Reception is always a wonderful social opportunity for members to wish the retirees well and to touch base with other colleagues before the start of summer.

Although the LRTA Retirement Reception is the last Association social event of the year, special thanks must be extended to Alison Ward and her entire Social Committee for hosting the "Kickin' it Old School" social on April 19th. The committee worked industriously to ensure that a great time was had by all. Special appreciation is also extended to Superintendent & CEO, Terry Borys, for his generous donation of release prizes. The social was such a success that LRTA members are already enquiring about plans for next year! →



...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

The 2012-2013 Association calendar is complete and has been forwarded to Council Reps, school administrators and the Division. The Association is asking that no school activities be scheduled on Council meeting days – nor on Wednesday, September 26th, 2012 (New Member Celebration), Wednesday, April 17th, 2013 (AGA) or Thursday, May 2nd, 2013 (LRTA Appreciation Dinner).

In less than two months, this school year will draw to a close. The year-end places many demands upon members and that time is soon approaching. Strive to maintain balance in your lives, and now, more than ever, take care of yourself and take care of each other!

**Frank Restall**

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association

## **Pre-Event PPDF Information**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Bob Gaudes

In preparation for an out-of-town PD event it is strongly advised that you read the information noted below prior to travelling. These documents identify important funding exceptions to PPDF, explain its reimbursement process, and help you make the most of this invaluable resource.

Start by reviewing the “Expenditure Criteria” section of the **PPDF Guidelines** (Section V: page 6-7) to ascertain what expenses are, and are not, reimbursable (and, if reimbursable, to what amount). There is also important information pertaining to car rentals, baggage charges, and other additional costs, detailed in the **“Out-of-Town Reimbursement Form.”** This form also explains how to submit your receipts correctly – especially in shared cost situations.

Also, before submitting your receipts for reimbursement you must first complete a **“PD Report Form.”** This is done by going online to the LRSD staff page “Helpful Links,” selecting the “PPDF” link, and clicking on “My Applications.” Under the heading “Attended Events” you will find a “PD Report Form” link for every PD event you’ve attended. Note that this link will not open before the end date on your PPDF application has passed.

Finally, retain copies of the documentation you send to the board office. Your original documentation is addressed to the “PPDF Secretary” and can be sent via the pony. This must be received by the board office within twenty days of the end date on your PPDF application. Please review the “Funding Reimbursement” section of the **PPDF Guidelines** (Section III: B: page 5) to ensure a timely reimbursement of your travel expenses.

Please note that before submitting a PPDF application a teacher is required to have a conversation with one’s administration notifying him/her of his/her intent to attend a PD event. The act of notification is a professional courtesy and does not imply that permission is being sought to attend. **All members must respect both the spirit and intent of the PPDF Guidelines.**



# **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS**

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The Louis Riel Teachers' Association AGA was held April 18th, 2012.

The 2012-2013 LRTA Executive will be comprised of:

President	<b>Frank Restall</b>	LRTA Office
VP Collective Bargaining	<b>Barry Wittevrongel</b>	Dakota Collegiate
VP Professional Development	<b>Bob Gaudes</b>	Samuel Burland School
Secretary-Treasurer	<b>Jodi Samms</b>	Glenlawn Collegiate
ÉFM	<b>Bernard Mazerolle</b>	École Julie-Riel
Employee Benefits	<b>Carl Antymniuk</b>	Samuel Burland School
Equity and Social Justice	<b>Cheryl Bazin</b>	Collège Jeanne Sauvé
Public Relations	<b>Sean Fitzmaurice</b>	Highbury School
Social	<b>Alison Ward</b>	Frontenac School
Members-at-Large (3)	<b>Tara Law</b>	École Julie-Riel
	<b>Sue Wilton</b>	Lavallee School
	<b>Rob Wood</b>	Shamrock School
	<b>Jack Fraser</b>	Archwood School
LRASA	<b>James Bedford</b>	Dakota Collegiate
Past President		

**Your LRTA fees for 2012-2013 will be \$100** (a \$35 reduction from the previous year). Fees are deducted from your October and November pay cheques.

**POLICY B-3, VICE PRESIDENTS' RELEASE TIME**, was amended by deleting the following: ~~The Association Vice presidents will not hold a position on the Provincial Executive of the Manitoba Teachers' Society during their term in office.~~

**POLICY B-8, IMPLEMENTATION OF BENEFIT PLANS**, the Short Term Disability Plan was reaffirmed.

Thank you to Lorrie Restall and Darlene Karalash, recording secretaries, and Dallas Crawford, Brandi Douglas, Pam Deverdenne, Joe Laxdal, Corinna Muzyka and Elsie Yip, scrutineers for the April 2012 Annual General Assembly. Also thanks to James Bedford, election moderator, and to Carl Antymniuk and Deb Barry for their presentations.

And finally, most importantly, thank you to all of the LRTA members who came out to the AGA to take care of LRTA business! As an Association is only as strong as its membership, your participation and support is greatly appreciated.



## **SURPLUS**

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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – Barry Wittevrongel

Every year about this time, teachers are called in to the office to discover that they have been declared “surplus” in their schools. In other words, they will be transferred because a reduction in staff is required, usually because of declining enrolment in the building.

If you are in this position, what can you expect? You should receive a letter from the Division that states that a placement in Louis Riel should be confirmed shortly and preferably before May 31st. The Division has a responsibility to place you in another school in a position that considers not only the educational needs of the students, but also concerns raised by the teacher. According to a Posting Policy agreed to July 8, 2004 between the Division and the Association, teachers who have been declared surplus are a priority during the staffing process. When you are offered a position at another school, you do not necessarily have to accept the first offer. If you feel that it is not a match, you can say “no” and ask that the Division look further into its available positions to find a more suitable position.

Few teachers understand the rationale for the decision to declare them surplus. Remember, it is not a commentary on your abilities and you need not feel less of a teacher as a result. Teachers often comment (after the fact, of course) that transfer was a growth experience and in hindsight they do not understand why they felt slighted when chosen. But, we all know that hindsight is 20/20!

Finally, a reminder to all teachers – you are not employed by a specific school no matter what allegiance you might feel. You are employed by the Louis Riel School Division and the Division has the right to transfer its employees.

*The LRTA is  
here for you*

**Louis Riel Teachers' Association**

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**Please don't hesitate to contact us!**



## **2012 MTS AGM RESOLUTIONS from LRTA**

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Every May, approximately 300 delegates from 38 Teacher Associations across the province gather to discuss the business of the Manitoba Teachers' Society. This includes debate on proposed resolutions relating to constitutional, by-law and policy adoption or amendment. These debates plot the direction and position of the Manitoba Teachers' Society (all public school teachers and administrators) for the next year and into the future. In addition, the budget and the establishment of the member fee for the following year are approved.

Each November, LRTA establishes a Resolutions Committee (any interested LRTA member can sit on this committee) to review and propose resolutions on behalf of the LRTA for the next MTS AGM. All resolutions must receive Council approval.

### **APPROVED BY LRTA COUNCIL FOR DEBATE AT THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY**

Approved at the February 15, 2012 Council Meeting Include:

#### **TRAF Appointments**

BE IT RESOLVED that The Society ensures at least one appointee to the TRAF Board be named from the general membership exclusive of the Provincial Executive.

#### **RATIONALE**

Historically, at least one (often two) appointed member(s) of the TRAF Board has/have come from the general membership. In the recent past, appointed members have only been drawn from Provincial Executive. This resolution seeks to establish the procedures for TRAF Board appointments by melding the historical past practice with the recent past thereby codifying the entire appointment process.

#### **PD for Report Cards**

BE IT RESOLVED that The Society lobby the Provincial Government for one additional day of Professional Development in the 2012/13 school year to be devoted solely to training for the writing of the new provincial report card and further that this training come prior to the preparation of the first report card.

#### **RATIONALE**

All public school teachers will require training to use the new report card system introduced by the Province of Manitoba. This resolution would guarantee training time for the introduction of the report cards while not reducing the current number of PD days granted by the Province.

#### **Preparation Time for Report Card Preparation**

BE IT RESOLVED that The Society lobby the Provincial Government for one half-day of student evaluation time per reporting period, devoted solely to report card preparation, to come from the current ten allotted days for professional development/school administration/student evaluation.

#### **RATIONALE**

All public school teachers in Manitoba require report card writing time. This resolution would guarantee one-half day of report card preparation for each member per reporting period that could not be eliminated, altered or substituted by a Division or individual school.



# *LRTA*

## *Retirement Reception*



**Legacy Centre**

**4:30-8:30 pm**

**Appetizers Included**

**Cash Bar**